

Avian Influenza...Should You Be Concerned

Commonly Asked Questions and Safety Practices

Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Office of State Veterinarian



PROTECT YOUR BIRDS

Do NOT let visitors into the area where you keep your birds.

Change food and water daily.

Clean droppings from cages before disinfecting.

Wash your hands and clean your shoes with a disinfectant before entering bird area.

Don't share or borrow garden tools or cages with other bird owners.

Keep your young and old birds separated and keep birds of different species apart (for example ducks separate from chickens).

Fence off your bird area.

Know the signs of disease so you can stop the spread of disease early, don't wait!

REPORT SICK BIRDS!

Website Links
www.aphis.usda.gov

www.kyagr.com/state_vet

What is avian influenza (AI)?

- Commonly called "bird flu"
- Contagious viral disease usually only affecting birds
- Poultry can have 2 forms - low pathogenic AI and high pathogenic AI

What are low pathogenic and high pathogenic symptoms?

- Low pathogenic (LPAI)**
Ruffled feathers, drop in egg production
- High pathogenic (HPAI) e.g. H5N1**
Large number of chickens dying quickly
Swelling around head, eyelids, neck
Purple color of wattles, combs and legs
Lack of energy and appetite
Big drop in egg production, soft shelled or odd shaped eggs
Coughing, sneezing and nasal discharge

Does the virus spread easily from birds to humans?

- No, the virus does not spread easily from birds to humans

How do people become infected?

- Direct contact with sick or infected poultry
- Droppings from cages
- Poultry in your house
- Children playing in areas where chickens are or have been

Is it safe to eat poultry?

- Yes, properly cooked poultry is safe
- USDA approved poultry and eggs are regularly AI tested securing safety to the public

Will poultry be routinely tested for AI?

- Yes, backyard flocks and commercial poultry will be tested

What do I do if I have a sudden death of chickens?

- Call the Kentucky Department of Agriculture 502-564-3956
- Your veterinarian or your local extension agent
- United States Department of Agriculture 866-536-7593

